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available to deal with it.

Although the 'new' railway is reported as having assisted in helping to save part of Meiringen, there would have been very little to actually 'save' when the rail-born assistance eventually did arrive. The other brigades obviously provided both moral and physical support to their worn-out colleagues, and as well as damping-down they probably were able to assist with much post-event salvage, but the time-lines indicate that they were not in the category of what we today refer to as 'first responders'. A few years later, with completed rail links and year-round operations, the nearby brigades could well have used the railway to help save some of the town's infrastructure. In October 1891 they obviously did their best to come to the aid of their colleagues by using the 'new' railway, but perhaps the glowing write-ups about the use of the improving transport system was more an indication of what could be done than what may have actually taken place. 

TOP: This little engine, named 'Ticino', built by Jüng in Germany in 1889, and used for construction works in Ticino for many years, was displayed at the Brienz Steam Days on July 1st, 2018. It was virtually unknown, as it was privately stored for over 40 years, and is now in working order.

BOTTOM: Former Brünig loco G3/4 208 which was itself burned in the Interlaken depot fire in Nov. 2012, and is back in operation this year. Picture at Brienz, July 1st, 2018.



Top Tip - Eating out on a budget

Switzerland is expensive! Yes it can be, but you can eat during the day quite well for a few francs if you're canny. The large stores often have good deals in their self service restaurants, particularly the Coop and Migros supermarkets.

For breakfast, Coop do a hot drink, two bread rolls or croissants, butter and jam from CHF 5.95 and if you want to share you can add an extra drink. Migros do a similarly priced offer. For lunch these two stores do slightly differing price options. Coop charge by the plate size, CHF 9.95 buying you a medium plate (sufficient for most, particularly if you're good at "loading"), slightly more for a larger size plate and they change their menus daily. Migros, on the other hand, charge by weighing your plate and contents at the till and prices work out just



Inside the Coop at Bern.



Breakfast.

marginally dearer. BUT be aware that the Swiss like to eat at 12 noon and what can appear an empty cafeteria just before noon can soon become very busy just after.

However they do keep serving for quite a while so you always eat try after the noon rush.

After you've walked down your lunch, and you want a 'top-up' later in the afternoon, both stores usually do an afternoon (after 2pm) offer. Coop's is best as you have a choice of a large range of cakes and desserts plus any hot drink for CHF 4.95. In Migros, for the same price, you also get a hot drink, but only their choice of dessert. Manor stores also do similar meal offers at times.

These prices are based on 2018 and the offers may vary through the year, but they are worth trying. The other advantage can be that some of these stores are close to the main stations. Coop in Bern is 2 minutes from the escalator out and their store in Interlaken is directly opposite Ost station – and it opens on Sundays. If you fancy a stop at a different station, try the Coop at Eyholz between Brig and Visp, but there's also a Migros just outside the station at Brig.

Happy eating. 

Tony Bagwell



Afternoon break.